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Microsoft

NADELLA GETS MORE POWER, IS NEW MICROSOFT CHAIRMAN

Microsoft's Indian-origin CEO Satya Nadella was on Thursday unanimously elected as the head of the company's board

RIGHT PERSON TO LEAD THE BOARD: COMPANY

The new role will strengthen Nadella's hold over the US tech giant, which he has helped revamp since taking over as the CEO in 2014. In a statement, the company said Nadella's deep understanding of Microsoft's business will enable him to elevate the right strategic opportunities, thereby making him the best person to set the agenda of the board of directors

FIRST AFTER GATES TO HOLD BOTH POSTS

- Nadella will continue to be the CEO, becoming the first person after founder Bill Gates to simultaneously head the board too
- Nadella succeeds John Thompson, who, as the new lead independent director, will retain significant authority, providing input on behalf of the independent directors on board's agenda

$0.56

QUARTERLY DIVIDEND DECLARED BY THE COMPANY'S BOARD ON THURSDAY

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

It's free for all in state BJP, Delhi firefight falls flat

As allegations fly thick and fast, party Gen Secy reiterates there won't be any change in leadership

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IF the intended purpose of BJP general secretary Arun Singh's visit to Karnataka was to iron out the differences in the state unit, Thursday was a free for all. The simmering dissatisfaction against Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa and his government among sections of BJP leaders burst out with legislators making allegations of corruption and nepotism publicly as well as behind closed doors.

Barely hours after Karnataka in-charge Arun Singh urged leaders to refrain from making public statements, MLC H Vishwanath, MLAs Arvind Bellad, S R Vishwanath and M P Renukacharya defied the diktat.

Arun Singh was scheduled to meet legislators and office-bearers of the party on Thursday to listen to their concerns. What was supposed to be a closed-door event ended on a controversial note after Vishwanath declared to the media that Yediyurappa no longer had the spirit or the strength to continue as CM, a claim that was vehemently countered by leaders supporting Yediyurappa.

"No minister is happy with the B S Yediyurappa government because of his family's interference. His son interferes too much in every department, be it tenders in the Irrigation Department or sale of land to a steel company," said H Vishwanath about his interaction with Arun Singh.

He was one of the 17 MLAs who quit the Congress-JDS coalition government in 2019 to join the BJP, but has been miffed over being denied a cabinet berth.

Even as his statement came as much embarrassment, Arun Singh brushed it aside. "Vishwanath is new to the party. He doesn't know our party culture," Singh told the media while responding to the allegations.

Vishwanath's allegations were countered by M P Renukacharya and S R Vishwanath, both political secretaries to the CM, who minced no words.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, who cancelled all his official work for the day, met with MLAs and ministers at his official residence in the run-up to their interaction with Arun Singh. More than 15 MLAs, chiefs of boards and corporations including Rajesh Gowda, Jyoti Ganesh, Rajugouda, Renukacharya, etc, were present. P5

BJP general secretary and party's Karnataka in-charge Arun Singh arrives at the party office in Bengaluru on Thursday

Bellad says phone being tapped

Dharwad West BJP MLA Arvind Bellad, has alleged that his phone was being tapped and attempts were being made to fix him in a controversy. "Unknown hands are trying to target me. I have written to Speaker Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri that my phone is being tapped, my movements are being tracked and I have requested protection. I have also written to Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai," Bellad told the media. Bellad's name has been doing the rounds as a replacement to Yediyurappa in case of a change in leadership.

Don't declare results of PU-II yet: HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN a major development, the Karnataka High Court on Thursday directed the Pre-University Board not to announce the results of regular second-year Pre University Course (PU-II) students, for whom exams had been recently cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic and all are to be declared 'passed'.

The court has directed the State Government to wait until it takes a comprehensive decision based on the findings of a panel of experts constituted to study the methodology to be applied for promoting PU-II students, bearing in mind all categories of students, including repeaters, who have also been demanding that they be declared passed.

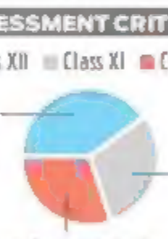
After cancelling the PU-II board exams, the State Government had decided to evaluate regular PU-II students on the basis of their SSLC and PU-I exams and performance in PU II for grading purposes. The court orally told the government to put freshers and repeaters in the same bracket, as the PU-I results of the repeaters had to be taken into consideration for declaring the results. This, however, excludes private candidate.

"They must be on a level playing field and the government should balance their interests. If the results are declared without considering the repeaters, they will be left behind from pursuing further studies. The examination can be conducted for private candidaes, whose PU-I marks were not available, after the Covid situation improves," the court observed.

A division bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Hanchate Sanjeev Kumar passed the order after hearing arguments on a petition filed by Gnana Mandira Education Trust, represented by its managing trustee S V Singre Gowda of Bengaluru. P2

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Class XII Class XI Class X



40% Marks based on unit test/ mid-term/pre board exam

30% Marks based on theory component of final exam

30% Marks based on average theory component of top 3 performing subjects out of main 5 subjects

HOW WEIGHTAGE WORKS

Theory marks				Practical/ IA marks	Total marks		
	X	XI	XII	XII	X	XI	XII
80	24	24	32	20	24	24	52
70	21	21	28	30	21	21	58
60	18	18	24	40	18	18	64
50	15	15	20	50	15	15	70
30	09	09	12	70	09	09	82

SC APPROVES CBSE'S 30:30:40 FORMULA TO COMPUTE CLASS XII BOARD RESULTS

KANU SARDA @ New Delhi

THE Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Thursday informed the Supreme Court that it has decided to go for a 30:30:40 formula — 30% from Class X board, 30% from Class XI exam, and 40% from Class XII assessment to arrive at the Class XII results this year. The court approved the marking policy for more than 14 lakh candidates who had registered for Class XII board exams in 2020-21.

As for the Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE), they decided to take the average of the last six years instead of three. They are yet to submit their affidavit before the court.

The CBSE board has asked schools to form a five-member panel for computation of results. The results will be declared by July 31, the CBSE told the court as it submitted a detailed evaluation criteria, which was decided after the board had to cancel exams last month because of the second Covid-19 wave.

According to the affidavit, the 40% weightage from Class XII will be based on unit test/ mid-term/pre-board exams, 30% from Class XI based on theory component of the final exam, and the remaining 30% from Class X marks based on average theory component of the best three performing subjects out of the main five.

The new formula is to calculate theory marks for students, while practical and internal assessment components will be calculated according to the existing policies.

According to the board's scheme, theory marks for Class XII for computation of results will be based on performance in one or more unit test(s)/ mid-term/ pre-board(s) theory examination, but the school committee may decide internally what should be given more weightage. P9

Vaccination is not mandatory for US-bound students: MEA

PUSHKAR BANAKAR @ New Delhi

INDIA on Thursday clarified that taking a WHO-approved vaccine is not mandatory for US-bound students to pursue higher education.

"There is no uniformity in these requirements... the US government has clarified that vaccination is not a mandatory requirement for travelling to the US for Indian students. I also understand that there are multiple conversations between the students and our universities. We would obviously support our students. I think everyone concerned is interested in ensuring that the students are able to reach the universities and undertake regular classes and we hope that a constructive solution can be found," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

Earlier this week, the US had assured that more visa appointments would be granted for Indian students after a rush for interview slots on Monday led to the embassy portal crashing. Reports had emerged that Indian students who had taken Covaxin or Sputnik V vaccines were being asked to revaccinate by universities as the two are not approved by the WHO yet. Bagchi said India is also monitoring the emergency use authorisation approval of Covaxin by the WHO.

Meanwhile, India said it favours a discussion on vaccine passports and urged it to be linked with vaccine equity as many developing nations are yet to inoculate their citizens.

IKEA forays into Bengaluru e-comm market

BISMAH MALIK @ Bengaluru

SWEDISH furniture giant IKEA has forayed into the Bengaluru market with the launch of its e-commerce services. Residents of Bengaluru will be able shop from amongst the 8,000 products directly via the company website and mobile shopping app. The firm is also planning to open a 4,00,000 sqft IKEA store at Nagasandra on the city's outskirts within one year as well as a store in the city centre later, IKEA CEO Peter Betzel said.

The retailer is planning to hire around 2,500 workers over the next five years across different IKEA businesses in Bengaluru, with 50 per cent diversity across all levels and will generate close to 1,200 indirect jobs linked with its business operations. IKEA works with nine home furnishing suppliers in Karnataka, including a social entrepreneur, engaging 1,200 local artisans, thereby increasing its local sourcing footprint in the state. The launch comes after IKEA's announcement last year of setting up a new global office in Bengaluru and hiring for key roles as the company is planning to expand its digital footprint in line with the new consumer shopping trends shaped by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The firm currently operates two physical stores in Mumbai and Hyderabad and has an online presence across Pune, Ahmedabad, Surat, and Vadodara cities. P13

FORMER KARNATAKA CRICKETER PASSES AWAY AT 71

All-rounder B Vijayakrishna had claimed 194 wickets and 2297 runs in 80 first class matches and helped Karnataka win three Ranji Trophy titles. He died on Thursday morning following a cardiac arrest | P2

Who is the boss? The Test begins

Virat Kohli & Co begin slight favourites as Test's first-ever summit clash starts in Southampton on Friday

Performances of the two captains — Virat Kohli and Kane Williamson — will be crucial during the WTC final | AFP

6-5 COMBINATION FOR MATCH

As has now become customary, the Indian team announced their squad a day before the match. It's the first time that India will play all of Ishant, Bumrah, Jadeja, Ashwin and Shami in a Test. It's also been India's preferred way — rely on bowlers to set matches with their unerring line and length. In batting, Shubman Gill will open with Rohit Sharma.

SWING AND DANCE

New Zealand are one side that rely on match-ups. So much so that NZ coach Gary Stead complimented captain Kane Williamson for using his resources perfectly against India last year. The 2-0 drubbing India received in New Zealand is their only series loss in their WTC cycle. Bowling with the Dukes ball, Boult and Southee will test India's batting unit which has struggled to put big totals on board overseas.

WEATHER THREAT ON DAY ONE

There is a yellow warning in place for most of England. There is a likelihood that thunderstorms could disrupt first day's play. There is a reserve day.

PITCH

Pitch is expected to be on drier side but if it's going to be covered, expect there to have some degree of sweating

$1.6million
Prize money for the winners

LIVE: STAR SPORTS NETWORK AT 3.30 PM

Will continue fight, say released Delhi activists

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

ELATED after their release from Delhi's Tihar Jail, student activists Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita, arrested in May 2020 in connection with northeast Delhi riots, thanked people for their "tremendous support" and vowed to continue their struggle against "suppression of dissent".

"For many months we couldn't believe we're in jail under such stringent charges," said Narwal after walking out of the jail following a Delhi High Court order for their immediate release.

Narwal and Kalita, both activists of the women collective Pinjra Tod, thanked their friends and well-wishers. Kalita said the delay in their release after the high court granted them bail was "unbelievable". "We had secured bail two-three days ago... still we were inside jail," she said.

Jamia Millia Islamia student Asif Iqbal Tanha, who was also released on Thursday, said the fight against the CAA, NRC and the NPR would continue.

The trio, arrested under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, was granted bail on June 15. But the Delhi Police had not released them, saying it needed time to verify their addresses and sureties. The activists filed a plea for their immediate release, but a city court on Wednesday reserved its order. The high court took a grim view of the trial court's order and said, "The trial court is expected to proceed further with promptitude and expedition and decide the issue placed before it. Our order has to be implemented. There can't be two views on that." The Supreme Court is likely to hear an appeal by the Delhi Police against the bail order on Friday.

Natasha Narwal (L) and Devangana Kalita outside Tihar prison | PTI

EXPERTS' TAKE

Evidence-based management of lockdown, by districts, in Karnataka

MS SESHADRI, MURU SUBRAMANI, T JACOB JOHN

A study of the dynamics of the second wave of the Covid epidemic, specifically for each state and district, shows that the onset, progression, peak and decline vary from district to district in each State.

There are three parameters pertaining to the epidemic, each with its own wave and peak, namely epidemic momentum (rate of change in new cases based on a 7-day rolling average), documented daily numbers of new cases and cumulative numbers of active cases. Typically, there is a consistent pattern of time sequence of these three peaks – momentum, new case numbers and active cases. Visualising the time of these peaks in a given district will enable health administrators to take appropriate action vis-a-vis the lockdown.

Lockdown is most effective in slowing down the epidemic momentum only on the ascending limb of the momentum graph. Well-timed lockdown provides time to prepare for surge capacity – hospital beds, Intensive Care (ICU) beds, supply of oxygen and essential drugs. During this time, the focus should be on effective application of 'social vaccine' and to rapidly increase immunisation coverage – these will help reduce the rapid progression of the epidemic.

Social vaccine consists of Information-Education-Communication on Covid and Behaviour-modification Education for adopting all elements of Covid-appropriate behaviour -- mask-wearing, hand hygiene, physical distancing of arm's length when all are masked, avoiding crowds and improving indoor ventilation during any activity P4

EXPRESS READ

No ULB polls in state for next six months

Bengaluru: The State Government has decided not to conduct urban local body elections for the next six months due to the pandemic. The Urban Development department has directed officials to take necessary action. P7

Mamata files election plea against Suvendu

Kolkata: Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has filed an election petition against leader of the opposition Suvendu Adhikari before the Calcutta High Court. Alleging tampering of EVM machines among others, Banerjee had said that the doors of the court will be knocked. P10

WITH THIS ISSUE

CITY'S BEST WEEKEND GUIDE INDULGE — 32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF INDULGE (TABLOID)

KARNATAKA	JUNE 16	JUNE 17
Fresh cases	7,345	5,983
Recoveries	17,913	10,685
Deaths	148	138

JAB-O-METER — TAKE YOUR SHOT

June 16: 32,62,233 doses

June 17: 29,64,596 doses

TOTAL DOSES: 28,86,65,914

NATIONWIDE	JUNE 16	JUNE 17
Fresh cases	62,224	67,208
Recoveries	1,07,628	1,03,570
Deaths	2,542	2,330